Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 07829 01 OF 02 191622Z

46
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03

H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-02 ACDA-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 AID-05 /063 W
---------- 100628
R 191442Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6125
SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
INFO DA WASHDC
CDR AMC ALEX VA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
CDR 193D INF BDE (CZ)

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PANAMA 7829

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PN, MASS
SUBJECT: US ARMS SALES TO PANAMA

REF: (A) JOINT STATE DEFENSE MESSAGE STATE 281925
(B) USMILGP PANAMA MESSAGE DTG 041725Z NOV 75
(C) US EMBASSY PANAMA MESSAGE 7658 DTG 1217Z DEC 75
(D) US EMBASSY PANAMA MESSAGE 7633 DTG 112105Z DEC 75

1. (C) AT THE DRECTION OF THE CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT, BRIGADIER GENERAL OMAR TORRIJOS, THE GN G-3, COLONEL CONTRERAS, HAS REQUESTED THAT THE US GOVERNMENT APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF SUFFICIENT ARMS, EQUIPMENT AND AMMUNITION TO PERMIT THE FORMAL ACTIVATION OF THE FIRST GN INFANTRY BATTALION ON THE DAY THE NEW TREATY IS CONSUMATED. I AM CERTAIN THE SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR ARMS CITED BELOW IS A RESULT OF MY CONVERSATIONS WITH GENERAL TORRIJOS IN THE PAST WEEK WHEREIN I INDICATED THAT HIS UNCERTAINTY CONCERNING US WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE PANAMA WITH ARMS WAS NOT NECESSARILY CORRECT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PANAMA 07829 01 OF 02 191622Z

(SEE REF C). GENERAL TORRIJOS WAS TOLD THAT WELL

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

CONCEIVED PLANS FOR THE USE OF ARMS WOULD BE GIVEN
SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

2. (C) THE GN IS NOW PROPOSING THE ACTIVATION OF
THEIR FIRST INFANTRY BATTALION IN CONSULTATION WITH MY
MILITARY GROUP. THE DUE PROCESSING OF THEIR REQUEST
IS CONSIDERABLY HAMPERED BY NON-RECEIPT OF THE PREVIOUSLY
REQUESTED P&A DATA (SEE REF B). THEY ARE MAKING EVERY
EFFORT TO PREPARE A WELL CONCEIVED PLAN TO UPGRADE THEIR
INFANTRY COMPANIES DURING THE PERIOD FROM NOW UNTIL THE
TREATY IS CONSUMATED. THEY DESIRE TO ORGANIZE A BATTA-
LION CHARACTERIZED BY HIGH MOBILITY, GOOD COMMAND AND
CONTROL, AND WITH ORGANIC DIRECT AND INDIRECT FIRE.
THE BATTALION WILL BE ORGANIZED IN THREE RIFLE COMPANIES
AND A 4.2 INCH MORTAR PLATOON. EACH COMPANY WILL HAVE
3 RIFLE PLATOONS, WITH A 81MM MORTAR SECTION (3 TUBES)
AND A 106MM RECOILESS RIFLE SECTION (2 RIFLES). THE
3.5" ROCKET LAUNCHERS ARE TO BE USED IN THE RIFLE PLATOONS,
ON THE BASIS OF 2 PER PLATOON. ONE OF THE COMPANIES WILL
BE MECHANIZED (M113 APC OR ARMORED CARS), AND THE OTHER
2 COMPANIES WILL BE AIR MOBILE OR TRANSPORTED IN TRUCKS.

3. (C) THE SPECIFIC GN REQUEST IS FOR AN IMMEDIATE
FOREIGN MILITARY SLES COMMITMENT OF:

A. ARMS:

(1) NINE EA 81MM MORTARS
THREE EA MTD IN ARMORED VEHICLES

(2) FOUR EA 4.2" MORTARS MOUNTED IN ARMORED
VEHICLES.

(3) EIGHTEEN EA 3.5" ROCKET LAUNCHERS

(4) SIX EA 106 MM RECOILESS RIFLES MTD IN 1/4 TON
TRUCKS.

B. AMMUNITION: INITIAL PURCHASE OF:

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(1) 81MM MORTAR: 2000 ROUNDS

(2) 4.2" MORTAR: 1000 ROUNDS

(3) 3.5" ROCKET LAUNCHER: 1000 ROUNDS

(4) 106MM RECOILESS: 300 ROUNDS

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

C. ARMORED VEHICLES. GN DESIRES AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE FOR COMMERCIAL PURCHASE AND EXPORT OF SUFFICIENT ARMORED VEHICLES (TRACKED OR ARMORED CARS AS THEY EVENTUALLY DECIDE) TO EQUIP:

(1) ONE RIFLE COMPANY AND SUPPORTING WEAPONS PLATOON, (APPROXIMATELY 17 ARMORED VEHICLES).

(2) ONE 4.2" MORTAR PLT (APPROX 6 ARMORED VEHICLES OF WHICH ONLY 4 ARE WPNS CARRIERS).

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 07829 02 OF 02 191637Z

46
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03

H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-05

MC-02 AID-05 /063 W
---------- 100795
R 191442Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6126
SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
INFO DA WASHDC
CDR AMC ALEX VA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
CDR 193D INF BDE (CZ)

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PANAMA 7829

4. (C) THIS MSG NOW REPRESENTS A CHANGE IN FOREIGN MILITARY SALES PRIORITIES LISTED IN REF D.

5. (C) WE VIEW THIS AS THE GN ACID TEST OF OUR SINCERITY AND READINESS TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP. OUR AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST, ESPECIALLY THE KEY FACTOR OF SELLING THE WEAPONS REQUESTED, WILL BE A POWERFUL INDICATOR OF OUR PREPAREDNESS TO ACCEPT PANAMA AND THE GN INTO A MATURE PARTNERSHIP ARRANGE-MENT. WE EXPECT THE FAITH WE SHOW IN THIS MATTER

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

WILL BE RECIPROCATED BY THE GN AGREEING TO ENGAGE IN
FURTHER SERIOUS JOINT FORCE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING.
THIS OFFER TO BUY, AND THE TENTATIVE LOGISTICAL
SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS IN US MILITARY FACILITIES HERE,
WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARD COMMITTING THE GN TO A
PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENT WHICH THE US CAN CONTROL. ON
THE OTHER HAND, A REFUSAL OR FAILURE TO RESPOND TO
THIS REQUEST TO BUY ARMS AND EQUIPMENT FROM US WILL
UNDERMINE BADLY THE BRIDGES OF CONFIDENCE THAT I
HAVE BEEN BUILDING TO TORRIJOS IN OUR TOTAL INTEREST.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PANAMA 07829 02 OF 02 191637Z

IT WILL WEAKEN THE LINKS THAT HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENING
STEADILY BETWEEN THE GN AND OUR MILGP. AND IT WILL
CONSIDERABLY DIMINISH THE STATURE OF A KEY GN OFFICER
WHO IS COMMITTED TO DEVELOPMENT OF A PARTNERSHIP
UNDER A NEW TREATY.

6. (C) USCINCSO CONCURS WITH THIS REQUEST. HE SEES
THE GN PLAN AS FITTING WITHIN HIS CONCEPT OF THE
ULTIMATE FORCE NEEDED FOR DEFENSE OF THE CANAL. WE
NOTE THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BATTALION AT THIS TIME
IN EFFECT ACCELERATES THE FIRST STEP IN DEVELOPING
THEIR DEFENSE FORCE. HOWEVER, WE ARE GRATIFIED WITH
THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY ARE PURSUING THE PROBLEM.
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BATTALION WILL SERVE TO SUPPORT
OUR OBJECTIVE OF ENTERING INTO COMBINED TRAINING, WHICH
ULTIMATELY LEADS TO COMGINED DEFENSE. FURTHER THIS GN
INITIATIVE WILL PROVIDE US AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FURTHER
DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GN AS TO THE KIND OF
MAINTENANCE SUPPORT THEY WILL HAVE TO SEEK FROM THE US
FACILITIES OR MAINTENANCE CAPABILITY THEY WILL HAVE TO
DEVELOP FOR THEMSELVES. WE WILL HAVE TO EVALUATE THIS
ALONG WITH THE US MAINTENANCE CAPABILITY REMAINING
HERE AFTER A NEW TREATY.

USCINCSO ALSO CONSIDERS THAT THE PROVISION OF REQUESTED
WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT WILL NOT APPRECIABLY AFFECT THE MILITARY
BALANCE IN THIS AREA; ASSUMING THE LEVEL OF US FORCES IN CANAL
ZONE REMAINS SUBSTANTIALLY AS IT IS TODAY FOR THE DEFENSE
MISSION.
GDS-81.
JORDEN

CONFIDENTIAL

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PANAMA07829
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750442-0015
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751224/aaaaaulz.tel
Line Count: 216
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 SEP 2003 by greeneet>; APPROVED <30 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US ARMS SALES TO PANAMA
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, PN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006